

(b) It has not been possible to ascertain the dates or periods on the basis of carbon-14 determination. However, these types of Megalithic burials in Kerala are generally dated between first century B.C. and first century A.D.

(c) Five varieties of burials viz., Umbrella-stone, Topikals, Multiple Hood-Stone, stone circle and unhewn granite slab capstone types have been excavated yielding pottery, in the shapes of jars, bowls and vases in coarse Red Ware and Russet-Coated painted Ware and antiquities like beads, copper bowls, iron objects and tiny pieces of gold. These excavations throw light on the burial practices of the people of ancient Kerala around the beginning of the Christian era.

[*Translation*]

Decrease in Forest Area in Bihar.

3075. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of decrease in the forest area in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether environment is being affected or likely to be affected due to this; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Forest Survey of India has published a state of Forest Report for the country based on visual interpretation of Landsat imageries for 1985-87. They had earlier published an assessment of forest cover based on the space data of the period of 1981-83. Com-

paring the two sets of data it is seen that forest cover in Bihar has decreased by 1814 Sq. Kms.

(b) The percentage of forest cover in Bihar is only 15.49% as against 33% envisaged in the National Forest Policy. The further reduction in forest cover is bound to have a deleterious effect on the environment.

(c) Government proposes to increase the forest/tree cover through massive afforestation or social forestry programmes specially on all denuded, degraded or unproductive lands. An area of 4.73 lakh hectares has been planted during the period 1986-87 to 1988-89 in Bihar state under the 20 Point Programme.

Species Disappearing in Rajasthan

3076. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of species of wild animals in Rajasthan, and the names of the species which are disappearing; and

(b) the measures adopted by Government to protect these species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Export of Zircalloy to Pakistan

3077. SHRISANTOSH KUMARGANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the clarification received from M/s. NTC Nukleartechnik GmbH (NTG) and also from the Federal Republic of Germany regarding illegal diversion of Indian Zircalloy to Pakistan;

(b) the follow-up action taken by Government;

(c) the norms for exporting such materials; and

(d) the level at which clearance for export in this case was given and what precautions were taken to eliminate its diversion to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) Upon enquiry by Government, M/s NTC have clarified that the Zircalloy products supplied by India were further sold by its former Manager, Mr. Ortmyer to another company called M/s. Physikalische Beretung (PTB) in FRG. M/s. PTB in turn exported Zircalloy products to Pakistan without observing the existing legal regulations in FRG. M/s. NTG have informed that Mr. Ortmyer has been dismissed from the company since February 1988. Authorities in FRG have started proceedings against Mr. Ortmyer on charges of illegal exports of nuclear material including Zircalloy products.

(b) In the light of diversion of Indian Zircalloy to Pakistan by NTG, Government has tightened the procedure for export of nuclear materials with strategic significance. The approval will be given only on a case by case basis. Undertakings will be obtained from the recipient countries that the supplied material shall not be diverted for any non-peaceful use and that it shall not be transferred to a third country without the prior

approval of the Indian Government.

(c) The policy of the Government is not to export, as a general rule, Zirconium, Uranium and other nuclear materials. Exceptions are made in special cases and in respect of small quantities of such materials to be supplied to countries for experiments under bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy.

(d) The clearance for export in this case had been given by the Department of Atomic Energy since M/s. NTG had stated in their telex order that Zircalloy materials were required in certain irradiation tests and the supplied Zircalloy would not be resold.

Assistance to Poor People Living in Cantonments

3078. SHRI D. PANDIAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor people living in cantonments throughout the country are denied any assistance/compensation/relief by the State Governments for losses arising out of natural calamities;

(b) whether no poverty alleviation measures are extended to these residents by the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to provide these people necessary relief measures under the 20-point programme?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) People living in cantonment areas are not excluded under the guidelines determining admissible relief assistance in respect of natural calamities.

(b) and (c). Under the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme there are no specific programmes for the residents of Canton-